

Division of Geology and Earth Resources

Strategic Plan FY 2005 - 2009

Adopted: _____

MISSION

To collect, develop, use, and preserve geologic information to promote the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens, protect the environment, and support the economy of Washington.

VISION

In partnership with the people of Washington, The Division of Geology and Earth Resources achieves its mission through superior professional leadership, creativity, innovation, and cooperation and provides the highest-quality technical expertise to the public for the betterment of the state.

PROGRAM GOALS

Program Goal 1: To actively and thoroughly document the geology and geologic history of Washington and make that information readily available to all of the state's organizations and citizens.

Strategy 1: Implement a biennial review process to anticipate internal and external needs for geologic data throughout Washington to guide the Division's programs and budget

Strategy 2: Maintain an active program of geologic mapping throughout Washington that is responsive to the need of our stakeholders, emphasizes cooperation with other agencies and organizations, and efficiently delivers digital map products to end users

Strategy 3: Integrate the geologic data for Washington into a publicly accessible, scalable, geospatial database that allows users to access the information in formats and scales suitable for their specific needs

Strategy 4: Maintain a comprehensive library collection and electronic bibliography of literature on the geology, earth resources, and mining of Washington to facilitate academic and practical research and public outreach

Strategy 5: Directly inform communities, the State Legislature, and organizations about geologic issues in their area of interest through talks, field tours, electronic information distribution, and other educational outreach activities

Program Goal 2: To increase Washington's preparedness for geologic hazards by advancing the knowledge about these hazards and ensuring that this knowledge is effectively incorporated into decision-making at all levels of government.

Strategy 1: Establish a program to review local government needs for information on geologically hazardous areas, to guide the Division's production of products that satisfy the statutory requirement for best available science in designating such areas under the Growth Management Act

Strategy 2: Establish new programs and maintain existing programs for performing systematic, statewide hazard assessments, and aggressively pursue funding for those programs from federal, state, and local sources

Strategy 3: Encourage data-collection and reporting standards to ensure a consistently high-quality scientific basis for hazard assessments

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Program Goal 3: To support the economy of Washington with high-quality geologic data on the state's economically important earth resources.

Strategy 1: Identify the need for resource-specific geologic information and products to support the development of Washington's mineral, energy, and ground-water resources

Strategy 2: Develop cooperative programs with other federal, state, and local agencies to create the resource-specific products referenced above and make this information available as part of the Division's geographic information systems (GIS) database products

Program Goal 4: To focus the Division's regulatory programs on feasible outcomes that emphasize public safety and health, environmental protection, resource sustainability, and economic viability.

Strategy 1: Educate the regulated communities, other stakeholders, and the public about the role of the Division in mining and oil & gas projects

Strategy 2: Conduct technical assistance workshops for the regulated industries, local government, and other agencies on a regular basis, and provide opportunities for feedback to the programs from interested stakeholders

Strategy 3: Review regulations and procedures on a recurring basis for effectiveness and relevance, and work with stakeholders to revise current laws and regulations as necessary

Strategy 4: Develop mechanisms for stable funding of the regulatory programs and work toward their implementation

MANAGEMENT GOALS

Management Goal 1: To ensure that the Division's work is supported by a broad range of stakeholders having interests in Washington's geology, earth and water resources, geologic hazards, science education, and related information.

Strategy 1: Implement an educational outreach program to enhance public awareness of the geology and geologic hazards of Washington and inform individuals about how they may be affected by specific geologic conditions and hazards

Strategy 2: Inform affected stakeholders of the results of geologic and geophysical studies by directly contacting them in person, by electronic means, and by press releases

Strategy 3: Increase the effectiveness of the geology programs by offering technical assistance to users of geologic information on the appropriate application of geologic and geophysical data

Strategy 4: Broaden support for the geology programs of the Division by regularly communicating with stakeholders about the status of the Division, budget information, current and planned studies, new products, and ways to obtain technical advice

Management Goal 2: To maintain a workforce that is motivated, knowledgeable, effective, and flexible, and is skilled in the use of current technology and methods.

Strategy 1: Work with other DNR programs and other state agencies to maintain a diverse and multi-disciplinary workforce

Strategy 2: Develop a team approach to projects so that any one member can finish a project

Strategy 3: Communicate actively with employees and involve them in decisions that affect the Division in general or their work in particular

Strategy 4: Develop project management and leadership skills in the Division's employees to allow them to manage projects effectively

PRIORITY TASKS

Task 1 - Collect and compile geologic and geophysical data using state-of-the-art equipment and techniques in cooperation with organizations that have technology and expertise relevant to our work whenever possible, and publish the results in map and report form as appropriate

Task 2 - Determine and implement the best formats for digital information distribution and storage and expand our use of the internet as a means to disseminate publications, data, and other information on the geology of Washington

Task 3 - Implement ArcGIS and ArcIMS applications for electronic storage and, via a map server, distribution of all geologic and geophysical data collected by the Division, including currently existing significant hard-copy data converted into electronic form

Task 4 - Establish a management position responsible for all operational and implementation aspects of the geologic hazards program, including budget preparation, planning, expenditure tracking, product development and content, preparation and submittal of grant applications, staff supervision, and development of performance measures

Task 5 - Complete detailed and refined mapping of population centers throughout the state, enabling the creation of detailed earthquake hazard maps for use in the implementation of the state building code and other strategies for mitigation of future seismic events

Task 6 - Prepare hazard assessment maps of landslides, tsunamis, and volcanic debris flows for each potentially affected county, with a focus on population centers

Task 7 - Create annualized loss estimates for all geologic hazards to facilitate legislative funding priorities

Task 8 - Develop a response plan for geologic emergencies that allows the Division to take appropriate action in a timely and efficient manner. Response may include documentation of the geology of the event and evidence of specific effects, reports describing short- and long-term mitigation, and publication of the results of the investigation for both professional and general audiences

Task 9 - Develop funding and dedicate staff time to monitor subsurface drilling operations to build a database of geologically useful boring logs

Task 10 - Establish minimum standards and develop a model checklist for geotechnical reports on geologically hazardous areas, and work with the geotechnical professionals to implement these standards

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Task 11 - Develop a remote-sensing program to facilitate site inspections and compliance for surface mining operations

Task 12 - Establish an outreach program, with dedicated staff, for counties on Growth Management Act issues concerning geology and critical areas, and hold regular meetings with county planners statewide on mineral resources, geologic hazards, and regulatory issues

Task 13 - Communicate with stakeholders, including members of the Legislature, through a non-technical newsletter describing Division activities and new products, and through a series of fact pamphlets on Washington's hazards, the Division's programs, and the links between the geology of Washington and such issues as economic development

Task 14 - Develop a reputation with the media as an expert source on geologic information

Task 15 - Ensure that employees are cross-trained in other jobs to allow flexibility and job satisfaction, and that institutional knowledge is transferred to new employees